

Remarks

In response to the Office Action mailed January 30, 2004, Applicants sincerely appreciate the allowance of pending claims 1-5, 9, 14-15, and 19. For further prosecution of this application, Applicants submit the claim amendments and the following remarks. The claims as presented are believed to be in allowable condition.

Claims 9, 14-15, and 19 have been amended and claims 6-8, 10-13, 16-18, and 20 have been canceled. Since claims 9, 14-15, and 19 are dependent claims based on a rejected independent claim, these claims have been rewritten in independent form incorporating the features of the rejected base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 9 has been rewritten to incorporate the features of canceled claim 6. Claims 14-15 have been rewritten to incorporate the features of canceled claim 11. Claim 19 has been rewritten to incorporate the features of canceled claims 16 and 18. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-20 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1-5, 9, 14-15, and 19 are allowed. Claims 6-8, 10-13, 16-18, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kathrow, et al. (U.S. Patent 6,393,438, hereinafter "Kathrow").

Claim Rejections—35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 6-8, 10-13, 16-18, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kathrow. As noted above, claims 6-8, 10-13, 16-18, and 20 have been canceled. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections of these claims is now moot under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and should be withdrawn.

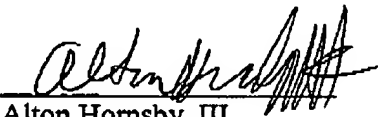
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is now in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the Applicants' attorney at the number listed below.

Applicants believe that no extension of time is required. If any additional fees are required for the timely consideration of the application, please charge deposit account number 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,

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Alton Hornsby, III
Registration No. 47,299

Merchant & Gould P.C.
3200 IDS Center
80 South Eighth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55402-2215
Telephone: (404) 954.5100

